Introduction

The Social Studies Academic Content Standards revision contains syllabi for six high school social studies courses: American History, Modern World History, American Government, Economics and Financial Literacy, Contemporary World Issues and World Geography. Each contains a course theme and broad topics which are further clarified with content statements. Grade levels are not specified for any of the courses.

The syllabi, adopted by the State Board of Education in 2010, are available for districts to use as they plan course offerings. Three units of social studies credit are required for graduation from high school, including a half unit of credit in American History and a half unit of credit in American Government. No decision has been made yet about connecting specific courses to end-of-course exams. The inclusion of particular courses in the standards is not meant to require that all of these courses be offered or limit the choice of courses which districts may offer in their social studies programs.

How to Read the 2010 Academic Content Standards: High School Social Studies

The standards are organized using the following components: **Themes**, **Topics** and **Content Statements.**

Themes

The focus for a particular grade level or the descriptive narrative of a high school course syllabus

Topics

The different aspects of content within a Theme

Content Statements

The essential knowledge to be learned at each grade level or within each course

21st Century Skills

The 2010 standards directly address the 21st century skills of civic literacy, financial and economic literacy and global awareness. Links to other 21st century skills, such as problem solving, communication, media literacy and leadership, are more fully developed in the model curriculum. The model curriculum provides instructional support including content elaborations, expectations for learning, instructional strategies, instructional resources, connections and essential questions.

Course	Theme
American History (page 3)	This course examines the history of the United States of America from 1877 to the present. The federal republic has withstood challenges to its national security and expanded the rights and roles of its citizens. The episodes of its past have shaped the nature of the country today and prepared it to attend to the challenges of tomorrow. Understanding how these events came to pass and their meaning for today's citizens is the purpose of this course. The concepts of historical thinking introduced in earlier grades continue to build with students locating and analyzing primary and secondary sources from multiple perspectives to draw conclusions.
American Government (page 7)	How the American people govern themselves at national, state and local levels of government is the basis for this course. Students can impact issues addressed by local governments through service learning and senior projects.
Modern World History (page 10)	This course examines world events from 1600 to the present. It explores the impact of the democratic and industrial revolutions, the forces that led to world domination by European powers, the wars that changed empires, the ideas that led to independence movements and the effects of global interdependence. The concepts of historical thinking introduced in earlier grades continue to build with students locating and analyzing primary and secondary sources from multiple perspectives to draw conclusions.
Economics and Financial Literacy (page 13)	This course explores the fundamentals that guide individuals and nations as they make choices about how to use limited resources to satisfy their wants. More specifically, it examines the ability of individuals to use knowledge and skills to manage limited financial resources effectively for a lifetime of financial security.
Contemporary World Issues (page 16)	The dynamics of global interactions among nations and regions present issues that affect all humanity. These dynamics include: competing beliefs and goals; methods of engagement; and conflict and cooperation. Contemporary issues have political, economic, social, historic and geographic components. Approaches to addressing global and regional issues reflect historical influences and multiple perspectives. Students can impact global issues through service learning and senior projects.
World Geography (page 19)	This course builds on students' understanding of geography and spatial thinking. Contemporary issues are explored through the lens of geography. In addition to understanding where physical and cultural features are located and why those features are located as they are, students examine the implications of these spatial arrangements.

American History

Theme: This course examines the history of the United States of America from 1877 to the present. The federal republic has withstood challenges to its national security and expanded the rights and roles of its citizens. The episodes of its past have shaped the nature of the country today and prepared it to attend to the challenges of tomorrow. Understanding how these events came to pass and their meaning for today's citizens is the purpose of this course. The concepts of historical thinking introduced in earlier grades continue to build with students locating and analyzing primary and secondary sources from multiple perspectives to draw conclusions.

Topic: *Historical Thinking and Skills*

Students apply skills by utilizing a variety of resources to construct theses and support or refute contentions made by others. Alternative explanations of historical events are analyzed and questions of historical inevitability are explored.

Content Statements:

1. Historical events provide opportunities to examine alternative courses of action.
2. The use of primary and secondary sources of information includes an examination of the credibility of each source.
3. Historians develop theses and use evidence to support or refute positions.
4. Historians analyze cause, effect, sequence and correlation in historical events, including multiple causation and long- and short-term causal relations.

Topic: *Historic Documents*

Some documents in American history have considerable importance for the development of the nation. Students use historical thinking to examine key documents which form the basis for the United States of America.

Content Statements:

5. The Declaration of Independence reflects an application of Enlightenment ideas to the grievances of British subjects in the American colonies.
6. The Northwest Ordinance addressed a need for government in the Northwest Territory and established precedents for the future governing of the United States.
7. Problems facing the national government under the Articles of Confederation led to the drafting of the Constitution of the United States. The framers of the Constitution applied ideas of Enlightenment in conceiving the new government.
8. The Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers structured the national debate over the ratification of the Constitution of the United States.
9. The Bill of Rights is derived from English law, ideas of the Enlightenment, the experiences of the American colonists, early experiences of self-government and the national debate over the ratification of the Constitution of the United States.

Topic: *Industrialization and Progressivism (1877-1920)*

Ignited by post-Civil War demand and fueled by technological advancements, large-scale industrialization began in the United States during the late 1800s. Growing industries enticed foreign immigration, fostered urbanization, gave rise to the American labor movement and

developed the infrastructure that facilitated the settling of the West. A period of progressive reform emerged in response to political corruption and practices of big business.

Content Statements:

10. The rise of corporations, heavy industry, mechanized farming and technological innovations transformed the American economy from an agrarian to an increasingly urban industrial society.
11. The rise of industrialization led to a rapidly expanding workforce. Labor organizations grew amidst unregulated working conditions, laissez-faire policies toward big business, and violence toward supporters of organized labor.
12. Immigration, internal migration and urbanization transformed American life.
13. Following Reconstruction, old political and social structures reemerged and racial discrimination was institutionalized.
14. The Progressive era was an effort to address the ills of American society stemming from industrial capitalism, urbanization and political corruption.

Topic: *Foreign Affairs from Imperialism to Post-World War I (1898-1930)*

The industrial and territorial growth of the United States fostered expansion overseas. Greater involvement in the world set the stage for American participation in World War I and attempts to preserve post-war peace.

Content Statements:

15. As a result of overseas expansion, the Spanish-American War and World War I, the United States emerged as a world power.
16. After WWI, the United States pursued efforts to maintain peace in the world. However, as a result of the national debate over the Versailles Treaty ratification and the League of Nations, the United States moved away from the role of world peacekeeper and limited its involvement in international affairs.

Topic: *Prosperity, Depression and the New Deal (1919-1941)*

The post-World War I period was characterized by economic, social and political turmoil. Post-war prosperity brought about changes to American popular culture. However, economic disruptions growing out the war years led to worldwide depression. The United States attempted to deal with the Great Depression through economic programs created by the federal government.

Content Statements:

17. Racial intolerance, anti-immigrant attitudes and the Red Scare contributed to social unrest after World War I.
18. An improved standard of living for many, combined with technological innovations in communication, transportation and industry, resulted in social and cultural changes and tensions.
19. Movements such as the Harlem Renaissance, African-American migration, women's suffrage and Prohibition all contributed to social change.
20. The Great Depression was caused, in part, by the federal government's monetary policies, stock market speculation, and increasing consumer debt. The role of the federal government expanded as a result of the Great Depression.

Topic: *From Isolation to World War (1930-1945)*
The isolationist approach to foreign policy meant U.S. leadership in world affairs diminished after World War I. Overseas, certain nations saw the growth of tyrannical governments which reasserted their power through aggression and created conditions leading to the Second World War. After Pearl Harbor, the United States entered World War II, which changed the country's focus from isolationism to international involvement.

Content Statements:

21. During the 1930s, the U.S. government attempted to distance the country from earlier interventionist policies in the Western Hemisphere as well as retain an isolationist approach to events in Europe and Asia until the beginning of WWII.
22. The United States mobilization of its economic and military resources during World War II brought significant changes to American society.
23. Use of atomic weapons changed the nature of war, altered the balance of power and began the nuclear age.

Topic: *The Cold War (1945-1991)*

The United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) emerged as the two strongest powers in international affairs. Ideologically opposed, they challenged one another in a series of confrontations known as the Cold War. The costs of this prolonged contest weakened the U.S.S.R. so that it collapsed due to internal upheavals as well as American pressure. The Cold War had social and political implications in the United States.

Content Statements:

24. The United States followed a policy of containment during the Cold War in response to the spread of communism.
25. The Second Red Scare and McCarthyism reflected Cold War fears in American society.
26. The Cold War and conflicts in Korea and Vietnam influenced domestic and international politics.
27. The collapse of communist governments in Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R. brought an end to the Cold War.

Topic: *Social Transformations in the United States (1945-1994)*

A period of post-war prosperity allowed the United States to undergo fundamental social change. Adding to this change was an emphasis on scientific inquiry, the shift from an industrial to a technological/service economy, the impact of mass media, the phenomenon of suburban and Sun Belt migrations, the increase in immigration and the expansion of civil rights.

Content Statements:

28. Following World War II, the United States experienced a struggle for racial and gender equality and the extension of civil rights.
29. The postwar economic boom, greatly affected by advances in science, produced epic changes in American life.
30. The continuing population flow from cities to suburbs, the internal migrations from the Rust Belt to the Sun Belt, and the increase in immigration resulting from passage of the 1965 Immigration Act have had social and political effects.

31. Political debates focused on the extent of the role of government in the economy, environmental protection, social welfare and national security.

Topic: *United States and the Post-Cold War World (1991 to Present)*

The United States emerged from the Cold War as a dominant leader in world affairs amidst a globalized economy, political terrorism and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Content Statements:

32. Improved global communications, international trade, transnational business organizations, overseas competition and the shift from manufacturing to service industries have impacted the American economy.
33. The United States faced new political, national security and economic challenges in the post-Cold War world and following the attacks on September 11, 2001.

American Government

Theme: How the American people govern themselves at national, state and local levels of government is the basis for this course. Students can impact issues addressed by local governments through service learning and senior projects.

Topic: *Civic Involvement*

Students can engage societal problems and participate in opportunities to contribute to the common good through governmental and nongovernmental channels.

Content Statements:

1. Opportunities for civic engagement with the structures of government are made possible through political and public policy processes.
2. Political parties, interest groups and the media provide opportunities for civic involvement through various means.

Topic: *Civic Participation and Skills*

Democratic government is enhanced when individuals exercise the skills to effectively participate in civic affairs.

Content Statements:

3. Issues can be analyzed through the critical use of information from public records, surveys, research data and policy positions of advocacy groups.
4. The processes of persuasion, compromise, consensus building and negotiation contribute to the resolution of conflicts and differences.

Topic: *Basic Principles of the U.S. Constitution*

Principles related to representative democracy are reflected in the articles and amendments of the U.S. Constitution and provide structure for the government of the United States.

Content Statements:

5. As the supreme law of the land, the U.S. Constitution incorporates basic principles which help define the government of the United States as a federal republic including its structure, powers and relationship with the governed.
6. The Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers framed the national debate over the basic principles of government encompassed by the Constitution of the United States.
7. Constitutional government in the United States has changed over time as a result of amendments to the U.S. Constitution, Supreme Court decisions, legislation and informal practices.
8. The Bill of Rights was drafted in response to the national debate over the ratification of the Constitution of the United States.
9. The Reconstruction Era prompted Amendments 13 through 15 to address the aftermath of slavery and the Civil War.

10. Amendments 16 through 19 responded to calls for reform during the Progressive Era.
11. Four amendments have provided for extensions of suffrage to disenfranchised groups.
12. Five amendments have altered provisions for presidential election, terms, and succession to address changing historical circumstances.
13. Amendments 11, 21 and 27 have addressed unique historical circumstances.

Topic: *Structure and Functions of the Federal Government*

Three branches compose the basic structure of the federal government. Public policy is created through the making of laws, the execution of the laws and the adjudication of disputes under the laws.

Content Statements:

14. Law and public policy are created and implemented by three branches of government; each functions with its own set of powers and responsibilities.
15. The political process creates a dynamic interaction among the three branches of government in addressing current issues.

Topic: *Role of the People*

The government of the United States protects the freedoms of its people and provides opportunities for citizens to participate in the political process.

Content Statements:

16. In the United States, people have rights which protect them from undue governmental interference. Rights carry responsibilities which help define how people use their rights and which require respect for the rights of others.
17. Historically, the United States has struggled with majority rule and the extension of minority rights. As a result of this struggle, the government has increasingly extended civil rights to marginalized groups and broadened opportunities for participation.

Topic: *Ohio's State and Local Governments*

The State of Ohio acts within the framework of the U.S. Constitution and extends powers and functions to local governments.

Content Statements:

18. The Ohio Constitution was drafted in 1851 to address difficulties in governing the state of Ohio.
19. As a framework for the state, the Ohio Constitution complements the federal structure of government in the United States.
20. Individuals in Ohio have a responsibility to assist state and local governments as they address relevant and often controversial problems that directly affect their communities.

Topic: *Public Policy*

Federal, state and local governments address problems and issues by making decisions, creating laws, enforcing regulations and taking action.

Content Statements:

21. A variety of entities within the three branches of government, at all levels, address public policy issues which arise in domestic and international affairs.
22. Individuals and organizations play a role within federal, state and local governments in helping to determine public (domestic and foreign) policy.

Topic: *Government and the Economy*

The actions of government play a major role in the flow of economic activity. Governments consume and produce goods and services. Fiscal and monetary policies, as well as economic regulations, provide the means for government intervention in the economy.

Content Statements:

23. The federal government uses spending and tax policy to maintain economic stability and foster economic growth. Regulatory actions carry economic costs and benefits.
24. The Federal Reserve System uses monetary tools to regulate the nation's money supply and moderate the effects of expansion and contraction in the economy.

Modern World History

Theme: This course examines world events from 1600 to the present. It explores the impact of the democratic and industrial revolutions, the forces that led to world domination by European powers, the wars that changed empires, the ideas that led to independence movements and the effects of global interdependence. The concepts of historical thinking introduced in earlier grades continue to build with students locating and analyzing primary and secondary sources from multiple perspectives to draw conclusions.

Topic: *Historical Thinking and Skills*

Students apply skills by utilizing a variety of resources to construct theses and support or refute contentions made by others. Alternative explanations of historical events are analyzed and questions of historical inevitability are explored.

Content Statements:

1. Historical events provide opportunities to examine alternative courses of action.
2. The use of primary and secondary sources of information includes an examination of the credibility of each source.
3. Historians develop theses and use evidence to support or refute positions.
4. Historians analyze cause, effect, sequence, and correlation in historical events, including multiple causation and long- and short-term causal relations.

Topic: *Age of Enlightenment (1600-1800)*

The Age of Enlightenment developed from the Scientific Revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries. A new focus on reasoning was used to understand social, political and economic institutions.

Content Statements:

5. The Scientific Revolution impacted religious, political, and cultural institutions by challenging how people viewed the world.
6. Enlightenment thinkers applied reason to discover natural laws guiding human nature in social, political and economic systems and institutions.
7. Enlightenment ideas challenged practices related to religious authority, absolute rule and mercantilism.

Topic: *Age of Revolutions (1750-1914)*

The Age of Revolutions was a period of two world-encompassing and interrelated developments: the democratic revolution and the industrial revolution. Both had political, economic and social consequences on a global scale.

Content Statements:

8. Enlightenment ideas on the relationship of the individual and the government influenced the American Revolution, French Revolution and Latin American wars for independence.

9. Industrialization had social, political and economic effects on Western Europe and the world.

Topic: *Imperialism (1800-1914)*

The industrialized nations embarked upon a competition for overseas empires that had profound implications for the entire world. This "new imperialism" focused on the underdeveloped world and led to the domination and exploitation of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Content Statements:

10. Imperial expansion had political, economic and social roots.
11. Imperialism involved land acquisition, extraction of raw materials, spread of Western values and direct political control.
12. The consequences of imperialism were viewed differently by the colonizers and the colonized.

Topic: *Achievements and Crises (1900-1945)*

The first half of the 20th century was one of rapid technological advances. It was a period when the tensions between industrialized nations resulted in World War I and set the stage for World War II. While World War II transformed the balance of world power, it was the most destructive and costly war in terms of human casualties and material resources expended.

Content Statements:

13. Advances in technology, communication and transportation improved lives, but also had negative consequences.
14. The causes of World War I included militarism, imperialism, nationalism and alliances.
15. The consequences of World War I and the worldwide depression set the stage for the Russian Revolution, the rise of totalitarianism, aggressive Axis expansion and the policy of appeasement which in turn led to World War II.
16. Oppression and discrimination resulted in the Armenian Genocide during World War I and the Holocaust, the state-sponsored mass murder of Jews and other groups, during World War II.
17. World War II devastated most of Europe and Asia, led to the occupation of Eastern Europe and Japan, and began the atomic age.

Topic: The Cold War (1945-1991)

Conflicting political and economic ideologies after World War II resulted in the Cold War. The Cold War overlapped with the era of decolonization and national liberation.

Content Statements:

18. The United States and the Soviet Union became superpowers and competed for global influence.
19. Treaties and agreements at the end of World War II changed national boundaries and created multinational organizations.
20. Religious diversity, the end of colonial rule and rising nationalism have led to regional conflicts in the Middle East.

21. Postwar global politics led to the rise of nationalist movements in Africa and Southeast Asia.
22. Political and social struggles have resulted in expanded rights and freedoms for women and indigenous peoples.

Topic: *Globalization (1991-Present)*

The global balance of power shifted with the end of the Cold War. Wars, territorial disputes, ethnic and cultural conflicts, acts of terrorism, advances in technology, expansion of human rights, and changes in the global economy present new challenges.

Content Statements:

23. The break-up of the Soviet Union ended the Cold War and created challenges for its former allies, the former Soviet republics, Europe, the United States and the non-aligned world.
24. Regional and ethnic conflicts in the post-Cold War era have resulted in acts of terrorism, genocide and ethnic cleansing.
25. Political and cultural groups have struggled to achieve self-governance and self-determination.
26. Emerging economic powers and improvements in technology have created a more interdependent global economy.
27. Proliferation of nuclear weapons has created a challenge to world peace.
28. The rapid increase of global population, coupled with an increase in life expectancy and mass migrations have created societal and governmental challenges.
29. Environmental concerns, impacted by population growth and heightened by international competition for the world's energy supplies, have resulted in a new environmental consciousness and a movement for the sustainability of the world's resources.

Economics and Financial Literacy

Theme: This course explores the fundamentals that guide individuals and nations as they make choices about how to use limited resources to satisfy their wants. More specifically, it examines the ability of individuals to use knowledge and skills to manage limited financial resources effectively for a lifetime of financial security.

Topic: Economic Decision Making and Skills

Economic decision making relies on the analysis of data. Economists use data to explain trends and decide among economic alternatives. Individuals use data to determine the condition of their finances and to make savings and investment decisions.

Content Statements:

1. Economists analyze multiple sources of data to predict trends, make inferences and arrive at conclusions.
2. Reading financial reports (bank statements, stock market reports, mutual fund statements) enables individuals to make and analyze decisions about personal finances.

Topic: *Fundamentals of Economics*

Productive resources are limited and allocated in a variety of different ways. An efficient way to allocate productive resources is through markets.

Content Statements:

3. People cannot have all the goods and services they want and, as a result, must choose some things and give up others.
4. Different economic systems (traditional, market, command, and mixed) utilize different methods to allocate limited resources.
5. Markets exist when consumers and producers interact. When supply or demand changes, market prices adjust. Those adjustments send signals and provide incentives to consumers and producers to change their own decisions.
6. Competition among sellers lowers costs and prices, and encourages producers to produce more of what consumers are willing and able to buy. Competition among buyers increases prices and allocates goods and services to those people who are willing and able to pay the most for them.

Topic: *Government and the Economy*

The health of a nation's economy is influenced by governmental policy. Fiscal policy can be used to spur economic growth. Monetary policy can be used to moderate fluctuations in the business cycle.

Content Statements:

7. A nation's overall level of economic well-being is determined by the interaction of spending and production decisions made by all households, firms, government

agencies and others in the economy. Economic well-being can be assessed by analyzing economic indicators gathered by the government.

8. Economic policy decisions made by governments result in both intended and unintended consequences.

Topic: *Global Economy*

Global issues and events influence economic activities.

Content Statements:

9. When regions and nations use comparative advantage to produce at the lowest cost and then trade with others, production, consumption and interdependence increase.
10. Government actions, such as tariffs, quotas, subsidies, trade agreements and membership in multinational economic organizations, significantly impact international trade.

Topic: *Working and Earning*

Employment provides a means of creating personal income.

Content Statements:

11. Income is determined by many factors including individual skills and abilities, work ethic and market conditions.
12. Employee earning statements include information about gross wages, benefits, taxes and other deductions.

Topic: *Financial Responsibility and Money Management*

Responsible personal finance decisions are based upon reliable information and used to reach personal goals.

Content Statements:

13. Financial decision-making involves considering alternatives by examining costs and benefits.
14. A personal financial plan includes financial goals and a budget, including spending on goods and services, savings and investments, insurance and philanthropy.
15. Different payment methods have advantages and disadvantages.

Topic: *Saving and Investing*

Saving and investing strategies help individuals achieve personal financial goals.

Content Statements:

16. Saving and investing help to build wealth.
17. Savings can serve as a buffer against economic hardship.
18. Different costs and benefits are associated with saving and investing alternatives.
19. Banks, brokerages and insurance companies provide access to investments such as certificates of deposit, stocks, bonds and mutual funds.

Topic: *Credit and Debt*

Credit and debt can be used to achieve personal financial goals.

Content Statements:

20. There are costs and benefits associated with various sources of credit available from different types of financial institutions.
21. Credit and debt can be managed to maintain credit worthiness.
22. Consumer protection laws provide financial safeguards.

Topic: *Risk Management*

There are various strategies to help protect personal assets and wealth.

Content Statements:

23. Property and liability insurance protect against risks associated with use of property.
24. Health, disability and life insurance protect against risks associated with increased expenses and loss of income.
25. Steps can be taken to safeguard one's personal financial information and reduce the risk of loss.

Contemporary World Issues

Theme: The dynamics of global interactions among nations and regions present issues that affect all humanity. These dynamics include: competing beliefs and goals; methods of engagement; and conflict and cooperation. Contemporary issues have political, economic, social, historic and geographic components. Approaches to addressing global and regional issues reflect historical influences and multiple perspectives. Students can impact global issues through service learning and senior projects.

Topic: *Global Connections*

The 21st century is characterized by changing circumstances as new economies emerge and new technologies change the way people interact. Issues related to health, economics, security and the environment are universal.

Content Statements:

1. Trade, alliances, treaties and international organizations contribute to the increasing interconnectedness of nations and peoples in the 21st century.
2. Advances in communications technology have profound effects on the ability of governments, interest groups, individuals and the media to share information across national and cultural borders.

Topic: *Civic Participation and Skills*

Individuals and groups have the capacity to engage with others to impact global issues.

Content Statements:

3. Individuals can evaluate media messages that are constructed using particular tools, characteristics and conventions for unique purposes. Different communication methods affect how people define and act on issues.
4. Individuals can assess how effective communicators address diverse audiences.
5. Individuals can identify, assess and evaluate world events, engage in deliberative civil debate and influence public processes to address global issues.
6. Effective civic participation involves identifying problems or dilemmas, proposing appropriate solutions, formulating action plans, and assessing the positive and negative results of actions taken.
7. Individuals can participate through non-governmental organizations to help address humanitarian needs.

Topic: *Civil and Human Rights*

There are challenges to civil rights and human rights throughout the world. Politics, economics and culture can all influence perceptions of civil and human rights.

Content Statements:

8. Beliefs about civil and human rights vary among social and governmental systems.

9. Nations and international organizations pursue their own interests on issues related to civil and human rights, resulting in both conflict and cooperation particularly as it relates to injustices against minority groups.
10. Modern instances of genocide and ethnic cleansing present individual, organizational and national issues related to the responsibilities of participants and non-participants.

Topic: *Sustainability*

An increasingly global society is faced with the interdependency of ecological, social and economic systems. The functioning of these systems determines the sustainability of natural and human communities at local, regional, national and global levels.

Content Statements:

11. Decisions about human activities made by individuals and societies have implications for both current and future generations, including intended and unintended consequences.
12. Sustainability issues are interpreted and treated differently by people viewing them from various political, economic and cultural perspectives.
13. International associations and nongovernmental organizations offer means of collaboration to address sustainability issues on local, national and international levels.

Topic: *Technology*

Technological advances present issues related to costs, distribution of benefits, ethical considerations, and intended and unintended consequences.

Content Statements:

14. The development and use of technology influences economic, political, ethical and social issues.
15. Technologies inevitably involve trade-offs between costs and benefits. Decisions about the use of products and systems can result in intended and unintended consequences.

Topic: *National Security and International Diplomacy*

The political, economic and social goals of nations, international associations and nongovernmental organizations may be incompatible with each other and lead to conflicts.

Content Statements:

16. Nations seek to ensure the security of their geographic territories, political institutions, economic systems and ways of life. Maintaining security has political, social and economic costs.
17. Economic, political and social differences between global entities can lead to conflict unless mitigated through diplomacy or cooperative efforts.
18. Individuals and organizations work within, or outside of, established systems of power, authority and governance to influence their own security and the security of others.

Topic: *The Global Economy*

The global economy is an international marketplace fueled by competition, trade and integration.

Content Statements:

19. The global economy creates advantages and disadvantages for different segments of the world's population.
20. Trade agreements, multinational organizations, embargoes and protectionism impact markets.
21. The distribution of wealth and economic power among countries changes over time.
22. The global economy creates interdependence so that economic circumstances in one country impact events in other countries.

World Geography

Theme: This course builds on students' understanding of geography and spatial thinking. Contemporary issues are explored through the lens of geography. In addition to understanding where physical and cultural features are located and why those features are located as they are, students examine the implications of these spatial arrangements.

Topic: *Spatial Thinking and Skills*
The ability to use geographic tools to locate data spatially enables people to gain a better understanding of contemporary issues. Investigations of spatial information provide guidance in solving global problems.

Content Statements:

1. Properties and functions of geographic representations (e.g., maps, globes, graphs, diagrams, Internet-based mapping applications, geographic information systems, global positioning systems, remote sensing, and geographic visualizations) affect how they can be used to represent, analyze and interpret geographic patterns and processes.
2. Geographic representations and geospatial technologies are used to investigate, analyze and communicate the results of geographic problem solving.

Topic: Environment and Society
Humans adapt to and modify the environment and shape the landscape through their interaction with the land. This has both positive and negative effects on the environment.

Content Statements:

3. Human modifications of the physical environment in one place often lead to changes in other places (e.g., construction of a dam provides downstream flood control, construction of a city by-pass reduces commercial activity in the city center, implementation of dry farming techniques in a region leads to new transportation links and hubs).
4. Human societies use a variety of strategies to adapt to the opportunities and constraints presented by the physical environment (e.g., farming in flood plains and terraced farming, building hydroelectric plants by waterfalls and constructing hydroelectric dams, using solar panels as heat source and using extra insulation to retain heat).
5. Physical processes influence the formation and distribution of renewable, nonrenewable, and flow resources (e.g., tectonic activity plays a role in the formation and location of fossil fuels, erosion plays a role in the formation of sedimentary rocks, rainfall patterns affect regional drainage patterns).
6. There are costs and benefits of using renewable, nonrenewable, and flow resources (e.g., availability, sustainability, environmental impact, expense).
7. Human interaction with the environment is affected by cultural characteristics (e.g., plowing with oxen or with tractors, development of water resources for industry or recreation, resource conservation or development).

Topic: *Movement*
People interact with other people, places, and things every day of their lives. They travel from one place to another; they communicate with each other; and they rely upon products, information, and ideas that come from beyond their immediate environment.

Content Statements:

8. Physical, cultural, economic, and political factors contribute to human migrations (e.g., drought, religious conflicts, job opportunities, immigration laws).
9. Human migrations impact physical and human systems (e.g., stress on food supplies in refugee camps, removal of natural obstacles to movement, harvest productivity and migrant labor, calls for an official language in countries with high immigration, reduction in city tax revenues due to urban emigration).
10. Activities and patterns of trade and communication create interdependence among countries in different regions (e.g., seed corn grown in Iowa and planted in South America, high-definition televisions manufactured in Japan and viewed in the United States, news outlets from many countries available around the world via the Internet, instant access to data affects stock markets in different countries).

Topic: *Region*

A region is an area on the earth's surface that is defined by certain unifying characteristics which give it a measure of homogeneity and distinguish it from surrounding areas. The unifying characteristics may be physical or cultural. Regions change over time.

Content Statements:

11. Criteria are used to organize regions and as the criteria change, the identified regions change (e.g., types of economic activities, ethnic groups, natural vegetation).
12. The characteristics of regions change over time and there are consequences related to those changes (e.g., industrial belt to rust belt, pristine locations to tourist attractions, colony to independent state).
13. There are interconnections within and among physical and human regions (e.g., river systems, transportation linkages, common currency).
14. Regions are used as a basis to analyze global geographic issues (e.g., desertification, political disputes, economic unions).

Topic: *Human Settlement*

People live in settlements which vary in size, composition, location, arrangement, and function. These settlements are the focus of most aspects of human life including economic activities, transportation systems, governance, communications and culture. Human settlements differ between regions, places and over time.

Content Statements:

15. Patterns of settlement change over time in terms of functions, sizes, and spatial patterns (e.g., a canal town becomes an industrial city, a rural area becomes a transportation hub, cities merge into a megalopolis).
16. Urbanization provides opportunities and challenges for physical and human systems in cities and their surrounding regions (e.g., development of suburbs, loss of habitat,

central markets, squatter settlements on city outskirts, regional specialization in services or products, creation of ethnic enclaves).

Topic: *Globalization*

The modern world is said to be "shrinking" or "flattening" through the processes of globalization. The scale and speed of global interactions continue to increase in fields such as technology, markets, information sharing and telecommunication. Globalization has impacted human-environmental interactions, has affected the movement of people, products and ideas, and has implications for what constitutes a region and connections among existing regions.

Content Statements:

17. Globalization has shaped new cultural, economic, and political ideas and entities (e.g., universal human rights, European Union, terrorist networks).
18. Globalization has cultural, economic, physical and political consequences (e.g., Internet access increases availability of information, outsourcing leads to regional unemployment, development of infrastructure impacts local ecosystems and economies, computer hacking into sensitive data bases leads to insecurity).
19. Global trade and communication systems reduce the effect of time on the distribution of goods, services, and information (e.g., reliance on local foods versus global trade in perishable foods, online brokering versus personal brokers, Internet access versus library access).